

## Message Text

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ORIGIN SS-15

INFO OCT-01 SSO-00 ISO-00 CCO-00 NSC-05 NSCE-00 /021 R

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DRAFTED BY: S/S-O:LMATTESON

APPROVED BY: S/S-O:LMATZESON

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO USDEL SECRETARY IMMEDIATE

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 225575 TOSEC 130014

FOLLOWING REPEAT DAMASCUS 3692 ACTION SECSTATE INFO

ADDIS ABABA ASMARA BEIRUT CAIRO JIDDA KHARTOUM

SANA TRIPOLI DTD 25 SEP

QTE

C O N F I D E N T I A L DAMASCUS 3692

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINS, PINT, ET

SUBJECT: EFFORTS TO OBTAIN RELEASE OF KIDNAPPED AMERICANS

REF: STATE 224639

1. MET WITH DEPUTY FOREIGN MINISTER RAFI' SEPTEMBER 22  
TO ASK FOR SARG'S GOOD OFFICES TO OBTAIN UNCONDITIONAL  
RELEASE OF FOUR U.S. DETAINEES. RAFI'S FIRST REACTION  
WAS HE DID NOT SEE HOW THIS MATTER CONCERNED SYRIA.  
REPLIED THAT KIDNAPPINGS CONCERNED SYRIA ONLY IN THAT  
WE WERE ASKING SYRIA TO USE ITS GOOD OFFICES ON HUMANI-  
TARIAN GROUNDS. WE KNEW SYRIA HAD LONGSTANDING AND GOOD  
RELATIONS WITH ELF. ALTHOUGH KIDNAPPERS WERE APPARENTLY  
FROM PLF WE ALSO UNDERSTOOD THESE TWO ORGANIZATIONS  
WERE APPARENTLY MOVING TOWARDS UNIFICATION. RAFI'  
ASKED IF WE HAD BEEN IN TOUCH WITH ANY OTHER GOVERNMENT  
CONCERNING THIS MATTER. REPLIED I BELIEVED WE HAD BEEN  
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IN CONTACT WITH GOVERNMENT OF SUDAN FOLLOWING KIDNAPPING

OF FIRST TWO AMERICANS. AS HE KNEW, SUDANESE HAVE FOR  
PAST SEVERAL MONTHS SOUGHT PLAY CONSTRUCTIVE ROLE BETWEEN  
ADDIS ABABA AND INSURGENTS.

2. EMPHASIZED IT IS FIRM USG POLICY NOT TO PAY RANSOM  
OR ACCEED TO TERRORISTS' DEMANDS OR OTHERWISE NEGOTIATE  
FOR RELEASE OF AMERICAN HOSTAGES.

3. RAFI'I SAID HE WOULD REFER OUR REQUEST TO "HIGHER  
AUTHORITY" AND WOULD ADVISE THEIR DECISION.

4. COMMENT: OUR REQUEST WILL UNDOUBTEDLY BE REFERRED TO PRESIDENT  
ASAD PERSONALLY SINCE ONLY HE WOULD HAVE AUTHORITY TO DIRECT  
FOMNINISTRY TO CONTACT ELF IN THIS MATTER.

5. ACTION REQUESTED: ADVISE IF DEPARTMENT WISHES ME BRIEF  
SARG ANY MORE FULLY ON OUR EFFORTS WITH OTHER GOVERNMENTS TO  
SECURE RELEASE OF HOSTAGES.

MURPHY UNQTE INGERSOLL

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NNN

## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptoning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01 JAN 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** TOSEC, KIDNAPPING, INTERGOVERNMENTAL COOPERATION, PRISONERS RELEASE  
**Control Number:** n/a  
**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Draft Date:** 22 SEP 1975  
**Decaption Date:** 01 JAN 1960  
**Decaption Note:**  
**Disposition Action:** RELEASED  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Authority:** johnsorg  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 28 MAY 2004  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
**Disposition Remarks:**  
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**Document Source:** CORE  
**Document Unique ID:** 00  
**Drafter:** O:LMMATTESON  
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**Executive Order:** GS  
**Errors:** N/A  
**Film Number:** D750328-0292  
**From:** STATE  
**Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Image Path:**  
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**Previous Classification:** CONFIDENTIAL  
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**TAGS:** PINT, PINS, CASC, SY, ET, US  
**To:** SECRETARY  
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